[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know whether there is any other kind of staff of male teachers?

PRESIDENT: There are non-graduate male teachers.

Poppy Cultivation in Travancore.

138. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the soil of Travancore is congenial to the cultivation of the poppy plant?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Director of Agriculture has reported that poppy can be grown in Travancore.

Rules re. Government Contracts.

139. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have framed any rules in regard to Government contracts?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that certain officers sometimes refuse to accept the lowest tenders even when proper security is forthcoming?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they will associate non-officials with the work of accepting or rejecting tenders?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) It is not possible to answer this question fully in the absence of information as to the kind of contracts referred to. There are rules governing contracts relating to certain departments.

(*b*) The lowest tenders are sometimes not accepted. Security is not the only consideration in the acceptance of tenders.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know what the 'considerations' which weigh with the Government in the acceptance of tenders are?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Besides what is mentioned in the answer to the interpellation?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Yes. I find that sometimes the lowest tenders are not accepted. So I put the question.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The contractor's solvency, his experience in carrying out similar contracts, his ability to carry out the contract within a stipulated time—these are some of the considerations.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether there are any rules governing the contracts relating to the Excise Department?

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